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SIPDIS

USAID BANGKOK FOR RDM-A

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR G; CA/OCS/ACS/EAP; EAP/EX; EAP/BCLTV; EAP/EP; INR;  
OES/STC (MGOLDBERG); OES/IHA (DSINGER AND NCOMELLA)  
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID/RDM/A (MFRIEDMAN)  
USDA FOR FAS/PASS TO APHIS  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA/AP (LSTERN)  
USAID FOR ANE AND GH (DCAROLL, SCLEMENTS AND PCHAPLIN)  
STATE PASS USTR (ELENA BRYAN)  
STATE ALSO PASS HHS/OGHA (EELVANDER)  
ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [PINR](#) [SOCI](#) [PGOV](#) [TBIO](#) [VM](#) [AFLU](#)  
SUBJECT: VIETNAM: AVIAN INFLUENZA WEEKLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER  
6, 2005

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

REF: Hanoi 2519 and previous

1. (SBU) Summary. There have been no new cases of human or poultry Avian Influenza (AI) reported since Mission Vietnam's last weekly update on September 29. Delays in vaccine and equipment delivery have caused postponement of the third round of poultry vaccination. The Government of Vietnam (GVN) will send a delegation to the International Partnership on Avian Pandemic Influenza (IPAPI) Senior Official Meeting in Washington on October 6 and 7, and has approved the First Phase of the Joint UNDP/WHO/FAO Program. The GVN has passed copies of a revised version of its national preparedness plan to the WHO and FAO. The WHO representative described the new plan as "complete and quite excellent." The Canadian Embassy is organizing a strategic planning workshop next week to develop a plan for their AI assistance. The Ambassador will host a Town Hall meeting for the Embassy community on October 12, and for the private American community shortly thereafter. Staff of the Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City met with members of AmCham to discuss AI preparedness planning. End Summary.

No New Human Cases  
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2. (U) There have been no new cases of human or poultry AI reported since Mission Vietnam's last weekly update on September 29.

Poultry Vaccination Program  
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3. (U) The head of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MARD) Department of Animal Health, Bui Quang Anh, acknowledged publicly that delays in vaccine and equipment delivery have caused postponement of the third round of the poultry vaccination campaign by three weeks. Officials hope the vaccination program will resume in early October.

4. (SBU) According to reliable international experts, Bac Ninh Province, which borders Hanoi, is one of several provinces affected by the supply shortage, and has postponed vaccination by two weeks. Local officials there are highly supportive of the vaccination campaign, and have allocated USD 200,000 from the Provincial Emergency Fund to cover the vaccine cost for bigger farms (the Central Government is paying for the vaccine for farms with fewer than 2,000 birds). However, provincial officials have set compensation to vaccine administrators at a significantly lower level than that suggested by national guidelines, and are facing recruitment problems. Additional challenges include an inadequate number of refrigerated storage facilities at the district level.

Other AI Related Issues  
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5. (U) The Embassy confirmed that Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien, Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States, and Deputy Director General, Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Mr. Hoang Van Nam, will attend the IPAPI Senior Officials Meeting in Washington on October 6 and 7. The Embassy has been in contact with the Embassies of Japan, Singapore, and Australia, which also approached the GVN regarding IPAPI.

16. (U) The GVN approved the First Phase of the Joint UNDP/WHO/FAO Program. The project includes USAID funding and the Embassy Science Fellow.

17. (U) The GVN has passed copies of a revised version of its national preparedness plan to the WHO and FAO. The WHO representative described the new plan as "complete and quite excellent." He predicted that the GVN will share it with the donors very soon.

18. (U) The Canadian Embassy and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are organizing a strategic planning workshop next week to develop a plan for AI assistance to Vietnam through the CIDA funded Canada-Asia Regional Emerging Infectious Diseases (CARED) Project. The USD 15 million program focuses on strengthening capacity in SE Asia and China. Participants in the workshop will include Ministry of Health and MARD officials and bilateral donors.

19. (U) The Embassy's Avian Influenza Working Group (AIWG) met on September 29 to review tripwires, preparations for shelter in place, the responsibilities to contractors, and plans for an evacuation. The AIWG will draft an AI specific drawdown list and expand the warden list. The MED unit will provide training on in-home health care.

110. (U) The Ambassador will chair a Town Hall meeting on AI for Embassy staff on October 12. Another meeting for the non-Embassy American community will take place shortly thereafter.

111. (U) Consulate General HCMC staff met with members of AmCham to discuss AI preparedness planning. In attendance were representatives from AmCham's Board and its Agriculture, Tourism, Public Affairs, and HR Committees. ConGen medical staff provided an overview of the AI and influenza information available on the State, CDC and WHO websites. CONS fielded questions regarding American citizen issues. AmCham gave an overview of planned activities, including an AI online resource center.

MARINE